ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The technique of the present invention enables distributed printing to be carried out from a general-purpose application program with favorable

5   operatability.

An application program 100 generates print data and issues a print command.   A virtual printer driver 110 receives the print command and returns performance information with regard to performances of a virtual printer to the application program 100.   The application program 100

10   converts print data into data suitable for the virtual printer based on the performance information and transmits the converted print data to the virtual printer driver 110.   The virtual printer driver 110 stores the input print data in the form of an intermediate print file MF into an HDD.   A distributed printing utility 120 reads the intermediate print file MF, allocates

15   intermediate print data in the intermediate print file MF to respective printers 60 to 80 according to a distributed form set in a dialog box, and outputs the print data in a distributive manner to real printer drivers provided for the respective printers 60 to 80, based on the allocation.